from financial institutions and/or cooperatives in the fertilizer sector so as to minimise the need for budgetary support. As the required funding arrangements could not be tied up, the revival package is being reformulated from the stand point of the financial institutions.

The nitrophosphate, melamine and Saudi Arabian Workshop Projects of RCF, PPCL's pyrites based SSP project, NFL's Panipat Expansion Project and KRIBHCO's proposals for manufacturing MDF Board, setting up an Argon Gas Recovery Unit and participating in the equity of a DAP company overseas have been dropped due to adverse evolution of the project viability parameters. The nitrophosphate project of KRIBHCO is also being reconsidered by the Society on these grounds. Pre-project activities of the Oman India Fertilizer Project of KRIBHCO/RCF and the Nellore Project of IFFCO are at an advanced stage.

(d) Plan expenditure is being regularly monitored and the progress of major projects closely reviewed to minimise the slippages against implementation schedules.

Exemption to Rice Exporters

*179. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of exemption granted earlier to the rice exporters from the levy rice;

(b) whether the Government have withdrawn the exemption granted to the rice exporters;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for re-imposition of the levy specification; and

(e) the extent to which it would help the Public Distribution System network?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) In the 1995-96 rice marketing season *superfine* and *fine* rice meant for export was exempted from levy.

(b) to (d). Exemptions from levy were allowed In the year 1995-96 in view of comfortable levels of stock of rice in the Central Pool. The Central Government has, however, not agreed to allow any exemption to any variety of non-basmati rice either for internal market or for export, from levy obligation in the current kharif marketing season 1996-97.

The procurement of rice in the marketing year 1995-96 came down to 98.80 lakh tonnes from 134.03 lakh tonnes in 1994-95 Season. In order to ensure adequate procurement of rice for Central Pool for meeting the demand for PDS and other welfare schemes, it has been decided not to allow exemption from levy in the current marketing year 1996-97.

(e) Collection of levy without exemptions this year will result in higher level of procurement and increased availability of rice for PDS and other welfare schemes.

Natural Gas for Urea

*180. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have demanded release of natural gas for the urea industry to boost the domestic production thereof and reduce country's dependence on imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b). The demand of natural gas for different sectors exceeds its actual availability. Hence, the allocations for the consumer industries, including fertilizer plants and projects, are periodically determined through, institutionlised inter-Ministerial consultations.

Investment in Pharma Sector

1529. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is losing out badly in regard to the latest technology and investment in pharma Sector;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof along with the details to direct foreign investment in the drug sector during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to liberlise the drug sector for harnessing huge potential for foreign investment through provision of patent protection to the foreign investors;

(d) the details of action plan formulated in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to amend the Indian Patent Act, 1970, to attract, the latest pharmacy technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The existing policy makes provisions for foreign investment upto 51% in the case of all bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations; investment above 51% is considered on a case to case basis in areas where investment is not forthcoming and the production of the bulk drug is from basic stage.

(e) As regards Indian Patent Act, 1970, under the TRIPS agreement of the WTO agreement a developing country like India has time till January 1, 2000 to

implement its obligations and further time till January 1, 2005 to introduce product patent in the areas of technology not protected so far.

Map of Banni

1530. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "border area map goes missing" appearing in the 'Sundary Observer', dated October 27, and November 2, 1996;

(b) if so, whether any investigation and efforts has been made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to the Surveyor General of India, they have no office at Bhuj. The concerned project office mentioned in the news items does not come under the control of Survey of India. Survey of India has not received any information about missing of a map from the concerned project office at Bhuj.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Clashes in Bordering Districts

1531. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the frequent clashes are taking place in the bordering districts of West Bengal between the residents and BSF;

(b) the number of clashes which took place during 1994 to 1996;

(c) the details of steps being taken against the guilty jawans of the BSF; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such clashes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The incidents of clashes generally relate to the obstruction/resistance by the anti-social elements and their sympathisers against operations conducted by Border Security Force. The number of such incidents in the years 1994 to 1996 are given below :

1994	-	30 incidents.
1995	-	23 incidents.
1996 (upto Nov., 20)	-	24 incidents.

(c) All such incidents are enquired into and the force personnel if found guilty are dealt under the BSF Act and Rules.

(d) Troops are regularly motivated and instructed by supervisory staff at all level to deal with such incidents under law and avoid over reacting to provocation/attacks by miscreants. Further, close liaison is being maintained with local police, Gram Panchayat and district authorities to deal with such problems amicably and to maintain cordial relations with the border population.

Marine Pollution

1532. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the problem of marine/oil pollution is increasing on all the major coasts and has assumed alarming proportion;

(b) if so, the details regarding increasing threat of marine pollution over the past five years as assessed by the pollution control agencies in the coastal States;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken comprehensive review of the magnitude and intensity of the problem and formulated an integrated strategy to deal with the dangers posed on this count;

(d) whether badly maintained old vessels with unreliable registration certificates and greater risk of leaking are permitted to enter our waters and whether the Government have claimed and received demerages from the ship owners of oil spilling leaking ships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The Department of Ocean Development has an on-going programme on monitoring of marine/oil pollution. The results do not indicate any alarming levels of dissolved and dispersed petroleum hydrocarbons in the waters of the open Coast. However, the pollution problems in some coastal cities were reported around the disposal points of various Municipalities and industries. The Government have taking the following steps :

(i) Schemes have been formulated for providing common effluent treatment facilities and disposal of sewage effluent deep into the sea in some coastal States.

(ii) Rules on Coastal Regulations Zone (CRZ), 1991 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been notified for regulating the developmetal works within 500 m from the the coast line.

(iii) A regular water quality monitoring programme has been initiated to check the water quality.

(d) and (e). Normally a vessel entering an Indian Port makes an inward entry after giving details of its